

Introduction to Humanism (Humanism in Context)

Overview of Concepts and Terms

Human-ism is. . .

- a philosophical perspective
- a way of life
- an evolving “movement” still seeking to define itself

Theism: a worldview framed by belief (god-focus)

A-theism: a worldview framed by disbelief (god-focus)

A-gnosticism: not knowing enough to believe or disbelieve (god-focus)

Humanism: a worldview and ethical practice framed by human experience
(good-focus)

Stated another way:

Atheism is a (theological) position ...

Humanism is a (philosophical) stance and practice

Related terms and concepts:

Worldview: “a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world”

Ethics: principles that govern a person's behavior

Philosophy: the loving pursuit and study of wisdom

Wisdom: “the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment”

Freethought: a practice of critical thinking based on free choices from real alternatives. Relentless questioning of authority and orthodoxy

Human: ??? (what does it mean to be human?)